

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 L-02 DLOS-05 OES-05 EB-07

COME-00 PM-03 NSC-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 JUSE-00

FMC-02 SS-15 AGR-10 /105 W

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R 051711Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5201

INFO COMICEDFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

URDT/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0826

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1104

USUN 0425

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0239

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, IC

SUBJECT: GOI SKETCHES PLANS FOR 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0230

1. IN SEPARATE STATEMENTS YESTERDAY, TOP GOI OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PUBLICLY FOR FIRST TIME SOME DETAILS OF ICELAND'S PLANNING RELATED TO EXTENSION OF FISHERIES LIMITS TO 200 MILES THIS YEAR.

2. IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION, PM GEIR HALLGRIMSSON EMPHASIZED THAT POLITICAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO EXPAND FISHERIES JURISDICTION IN 1975, AND THAT THIS WOULD OCCUR REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF UNCLASSIFIED

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GENEVA LOS SESSION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EXTE-

SION WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE MAY 10
(DATE GENEVA MEETING ENDS), BUT WOULD PROBABLY OCCUR
BETWEEN THAT DATE AND NOVEMBER 13 (EXPIRATION DATE
OF CURRENT FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH UNITED KINGDOM).
HALLGRIMSSON WENT ON TO BRIEFLY MENTION SOME RATIONALE
BEHIND GOI PLANS, NOTING THAT, FROM OUTSET, GOI DELE-
GATION TO LOS HAD STRESSED THAT ICELAND ALONE COULD
UTILIZE ENTIRE CATCH FROM WATERS INSIDE 200 MILES,
AND HAD MAINTAINED THAT COASTAL STATES HAD AUTHORITY
TO DETERMINE FISHING RIGHTS OF OTHER NATIONS WITHIN
RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON TOLD PRESS THAT
EXTENSION TO 200 MILES WOULD BE MORE COMPLICATED
THAN ESTABLISHMENT OF 50-MILE ZONE BECAUSE OF NEED
TO NEGOTIATE MID-LINES. HE SAID THAT NO FORMAL DIS-
CUSSIONS HAD YET BEEN HELD BETWEEN GOI AND NATIONS
THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY ICELAND'S MOVE, AND HE
COULD NOT SAY WHEN SUCH TALKS WOULD START. HE ADDED
THAT EVEN IN ABSENCE OF FORMAL DISCUSSIONS, IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT EXISTED FOR
200-MILE CONCEPT AMONG MEMBERS OF UN, NATO, NORDIC
COUNCIL, AND OTHER BODIES OF WHICH ICELAND IS MEMBER.

4. JUSTICE (AND COMMERCE) MINISTER OLAFUR JOHANASSON,
WHOSE PORTFOLIO INCLUDES COAST GUARD, SAID THAT HIS
MINISTRY HAS BEEN STUDYING PROBLEMS OF ENFORCING
NEW JURISDICTION. HE CITED EXPECTED AVAILABILITY
OF NEW COAST GUARD CUTTER BY MID-MAY IN THIS CON-
TEXT, BUT SAID THIS ADDITION WOULD STILL NOT GIVE
COAST GUARD CAPABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY PATROL AREA.
THEREFORE, MINISTRY WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING POS-
SIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING COAST GUARD AIR ARM.
MARTIN

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